MONTEREY NEWS

October 2011
VOLUME XLI · Number 10

The Town

by Maggie Leonard

Hurricanes, Tropical Storms . . .

Much of the work for the town this past month centered around repairing the damage from Hurricane Irene, which dumped upwards of 6 inches of rain in Monterey on Sunday, August 28, and Tropical Storm Lee, which brought more rain over Labor Day weekend to an already-soaked town. Police Chief Gareth Backhaus summed up Hurricane Irene to the Select Board at the August 29th meeting, remarking, "All in all we were very lucky."

While the rest of us were buying bottled water and preparing our homes and properties for the rainy onslaught, the Police Department, the Select Board, the Chief of Operations and the highway crew, and members of the Monterey Fire Company were making sure that the town would be ready for whatever Mother Nature might send our way. On Friday, August 26, Chief of Operations Maynard Forbes opened the dam on Lake Garfield for Friday and Saturday, to draw down the water level and make room for all the rain that was forecast in order to mitigate the possibility of flooding.

At noon on Sunday, August 28, it was all hands on deck: the Monterey Firehouse

Barbara Palmer

At the Bidwell House Museum scarecrow making workshop led by Michael and Maureen Banner.

opened as an emergency center; Select Board members Scott Jenssen, Wayne Burkhart, and Jon Sylbert met at noon with Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, who is also the Emergency Manager, Maynard Forbes, and Fire Chief Shawn Tryon to make an official declaration of emergency. A declaration of a state of emergency puts the town in line to receive FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funds to reimburse the town for 75 percent of the cost of repairs to storm-related damage. On Sunday Forbes also called in the Highway Department crew to help deal with flooding and downed trees. Later that day Governor Deval Patrick declared a state of emergency for the whole state, and at least two counties, Berkshire and Hampshire, were officially declared disaster areas.

In a recent conversation, Forbes estimated that repair costs would be around $300,000. He has been meeting with FEMA representatives and surveying the damaged areas, and reports that they have been very responsive. Forbes provided a peek into the emergency-response bureaucracy when he described the damage assessment at River Road where there are downed trees and a major washout; FEMA said they would pay for the repairs to the road but will not deal with the downed trees. Forbes was informed that to deal with the trees he should contact the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). Among the hardest hit roads were Harmon, Cronk, New Marlborough, Beartown Mountain, Fairview, Swann, Carrington-Batelle, Mount Hunger, Hupi, and Royal Hemlock. However, all these roads were at least partially opened by Tuesday, August 30. For repairs to Routes 23 and 57, Forbes has contacted the Massachusetts Highway Department and the Federal Highway Department who will reimburse for 100% of repair costs.

In another hurricane-related matter Donald and Erica Stern of Harmon Road met with the Select Board at the August 29th meeting to discuss the problem of flooding at their 71 Harmon Road property. The situation has been ongoing and the recent storms have exacerbated the problem. The Stern's provided pictures that show how the water is not draining properly, and they said that they have lost their driveway twice. They also acknowledged that some of the problems begin on land in New Marlborough. The Select Board recommended that the Stern's contact Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, directly. At the September 19th Select Board meeting Forbes said that the Highway Department has been working on the road to fix the problem and that two culverts have been delivered to the site for installation (see the Sterns' letter of appreciation for the prompt response and repair on p. 22).

The Select Board received a letter from the Library Trustees at their September 19th meeting stating that the recent storms have damaged the dam on the Konkapot River behind the library and that it's a dangerous situation that needs immediate attention. Library Trustee Chair Lois Storch's letter requests that a secure fence be erected on either side of the dam to protect walkers and prevent them from walking across the dam, as has been the custom in the past. The letter suggests that now would be a good time to fix the dam since it may be eligible for FEMA or MEMA funds. Maynard Forbes was at the meeting and indicated that he is aware of the issue and that it is in the queue of things for the Highway Department to do.

Bally Gally Repairs

Peter and Anna Poirier, the tenants of Bally Gally (one of the houses on New Marlborough Road that Edith Wilson left to the town and which the town now rents), have attended recent Select Board meetings in order to get their leaking chimney fixed. The problem has been ongoing and, although the Select Board has hired a professional contractor twice to fix the problem, unfortunately those efforts have

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Steve Graves

Monterey's traditional summer softball games ended on Sept. 4 after a perfect season of enthusiastic participation by players ages 12–75. Fall softball games continue through October with informal pick-up games at Greene Park on Sundays at 10:30 am.

not succeeded. The chimney leaked badly during the recent storms and the Poirier's were quite vexed with the board at the September 19th meeting and demanded to know why the ongoing problem has not been fixed. The Select Board expressed sympathy and promised to contact some local masons to see what could be done. As of this writing Mountain Goat Masonry has been hired for the job.

Encumbrances

The Town Accountant, Steve Pullen, met with the Select Board on September 12 to report on encumbrances, budget items that voters have approved but which have not yet been spent. Once voters authorize the money, it can be carried forward to the next fiscal year, which is a fairly common occurrence. However Pullen noticed that the encumbrances were twice the usual amount and wanted to meet with the Select Board to discuss the issue. The higher-than-usual encumbrances are due to several factors; among other things, the construction of the driveway at the Community Garden on the Wilson-McGlaughlin property came in slightly under budget (because the planned parking area was not done), and the the Dog Park, for which $10,500 was appropriated, has not been constructed. (Due to complaints and letters of opposition from neighbors and abutters, the Zoning Board of Appeals rejected a special permit application for the Dog Park.) Since the encumbrances will have no effect on the tax rate, the Select Board decided to retain the funds to see if the Dog Park might work in another location.

Transfer Station

Police Chief Backhaus informed the Select Board that there was a ruckus at the transfer station; the attendant contacted >

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him for assistance but was not pressing charges. Select Board member Scott Jenssen stated that the situation at the transfer station is not good; the facility badly needs the redesign that is forthcoming, the Swap Shack is causing traffic jams, and, in his words, "People are just plain rude." Jenssen also noted that on one recent Saturday someone left 30 bags of garbage outside the fenced area of the transfer station.

In other related news, the Select Board received a notice from the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) that a check in the amount of $2,989.85 for Monterey's recyclables was delivered to the MRF (Massachusetts Recycling Facility) for the second half of fiscal year 2011.

Highway and Operations

In other Highway Department matters, at the September 12th Select Board meeting bids for winter sand were opened, and J. Donovan was awarded the contract at $13.70 per ton. At the September 19th meeting, bids were opened for the surplus-equipment sale of a 1992 GMC K3500 cab and chassis and 1987 AMG cargo truck. Matt Roche was the sole bidder for the 1992 GMC K3500 cab and chassis with a bid of $1,121.96, and Roche also had the high bid for the 1987 AMG cargo truck at $1,751.92.

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported on the following activities from August 29–September 19:

- Checked roads and beaver ponds
- Filled in cut on Main Rd. with gravel
- Main Rd. reclamation
- Replaced tracks on the excavator
- Cleaned out ditches
- Repaired shoulder on Hupi and dug out culverts in preparation for hurricane
- Tree on Swann Rd.
- Clean out culvert under Rte. 23 by Fairview
- Opened Lake Garfield dam on Friday, 8/26, and closed Saturday, 8/27
- Attended emergency meeting at firehouse on Sunday, 8/28
- Fixed toilet at town hall
- Inspected Monterey School with Don Torrico and Fred Finkle
- Opened bids for paving
- Attended Highway Superintendents meeting in Lanesborough
- Filled in potholes on Main Rd.
- Met with school officials about open roads for buses
- Picked up stone in Otis
- Filled washouts along Main Rd. flats
- Graded reclaimed sections, Main Rd.
- Attended FEMA meeting: assistance to homeowners
- Showed surplus vehicles to prospective buyers
- Added gravel to reclaimed Main Rd.
- Graded Brett Rd.
- Took culverts to Harmon Rd.
- Placed Jersey barriers on River Rd. to protect lane
- Paved Main Rd.
- Repaired Beartown Mtn. Rd.
- Made several attempts to contact FEMA & MEMA
- Prepared damage estimates for meeting with MEMA

Police Report

At the September 19th meeting the Select Board received resignation letters from Officer Monyahan, effective September 30, and Officer Martin, effective October 3. Apparently Monterey is a great

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training ground for new officers. Both officers leave in good standing and Officer Martin states that he is moving to Virginia to be closer to family.

Chief Backhaus reported on the following Police Department activity from August 29–September 19:

- Tree on wires that started a fire
- Lost dog: found on Blue Hill Rd. and returned to owner
- Assisted with medical call, Sylvan Rd.
- False alarm on Main Rd.
- Disabled MV on Blue Hill Rd.
- Trees on wires on Harmon Rd., Laurel Hill Rd., Hupi Rd., Main Rd.
- Assisted person on Lime Rock Lane
- During storm on Sunday, 8/28, a loose board was hitting a boat/dock; police assisted
- Missing person reported; returned sometime later
- Evacuated half a dozen people around Lake Buel
- Tree down on wires on Curtis Rd.
- Discussed reverse 911 system with Select Board
- Investigated abandoned motor vehicle on Cronk Rd.
- Tree across road on Hupi
- Assisted with sunken boat on Buckingham
- Fireworks reported near Hupi Rd; police investigated but couldn't find the culprit
- Missing dog reported on Cronk Rd; later found
- Assisted with a medical on Sylvan Rd.
- Assisted with reigning in the loose weedeater on Lake Buel
- Complaint on Mtn. Laurel Way of neighbors firing paintball guns at their property
- Report of a found canoe tied to a boat (not the canoe owner's boat); referred to Dean Amidon, Deputy Harbormaster
- Assisted citizen on Seven Arts
- Assisted on Laurel Banks

ॐ

Maggie Leonard

Shaun Regan recently joined Monterey Police Department.

Property Tax Due Nov. 1

The fiscal year 2012 Real Estate and Personal Property second-quarter tax bills have been mailed and are due November 1, 2011. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). Taxpayers who paid the second quarter tax with their first quarter payment will not be receiving bills. Payments may be mailed to PO Box 241, Monterey, MA 01245, paid online at www.montereyma.gov, or brought to the town hall. The tax collector's office hours are Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Payments may also be left with the interdepartmental secretary when the tax collector's office is closed.

— Mari Enoch, Tax Collector

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Monterey Library Notes

We'll start with the end of the month—on Halloween, that's Monday, October 31—the Monterey Parks Commission and the Monterey Library will be sponsoring Greg Mcadams, also known as Professor Read-a-lot, at 5 pm for a pre–trick-or-treat magic show! Greg's magic will bring books alive and talk about Halloween safety with a good dose of comedy and audience participation. Trick or treat in the center of Monterey and start off with a non-scary show that youngsters of all ages will enjoy!

Denise Andrus will be conducting a story and craft geared toward Halloween on Saturday, October 29, at 10:30 am. Her imaginative crafts are a good way to have the kids get in the mood for any holiday—bring the kids down to the library!

On Saturday, October 22, from 10 am–noon, Cynthia Laino, who works for CWMARS, will be conducting a workshop on Overdrive and downloadable media. This is your chance to meet someone from CWMARS and find out about the digital website, how it works, and how to search or browse. CWMARS has a digital collection that covers audiobooks, videos, and public domain e-books. She will explain how to check out titles and download them—including to smart phones, iPads, and now even Kindles! Bring your laptops and portable devices and find out how to take advantage of this resource!

On Monday, October 24, at 7:30 pm, the adult book discussion group will discuss *The Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island* by Linda Greenlaw.

It's time to start up our youth book discussion groups again—we will be in touch with the members of the groups from last year, but we are also welcoming new members for this year. Children who can read independently are welcome, as well as teenagers. Some of our oldest book discussion members are about to graduate from high school—so there will be at least two groups and maybe more to accommodate the different levels. Please get in touch with us at montereylibrary@gmail.com or 413-528-3795 if you are interested in joining this always-lively group.

Finally—the moment all of the staff at the Monterey Library has been waiting for has been delayed yet again—the new software called Evergreen, which will replace Millenium, has been pushed back to over the New Year's holiday. Some CWMARS services have been curtailed in order to prepare for the move. We appreciate your understanding as CWMARS undertakes this big job of converting almost all of the libraries in the state from the NY State line to east of Worcester, as well as a couple of other networks within the state. This will be another step toward all of the libraries in Massachusetts using the same software and making it easier for you as patrons to fully utilize the tremendous amount of items throughout the commonwealth.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Community Potluck Oct. 19

Can't believe it's fall—the Monterey community potlucks are starting up again. Hope all of you have survived the earthquake, the two tropical storms, and all the rain that passed for a summer and are now ready for autumn beauty. We have a great speaker lined up for the October 19th potluck: Tammis Coffin, a Berkshires-based educator who has served as a naturalist and guide on rivers, islands and mountains between Boston Harbor and Newfoundland. She formerly edited The Friends of Acadia Journal and was a guide to Wabanaki culture in Maine. Her presentation will weave together photographs from places like the Mount Holyoke Range and Mount Desert Island with stories and writings by local authors.

The first Monterey community potluck dinner of the season will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 pm on Wednesday, October 19. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Kyle Pierce & Barbara Dahlman

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Monterey Cultural Council Grant Application Due Oct. 15

Do you have a special talent or know-how you would like to share with Monterey? Each year the Town of Monterey, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, offers small grants to prepare a program, event, or experience that will share your art, humanities, cultural, or scientific expertise with our community. In the past programs have varied from bird watching to concerts to pastel drawing to song writing to nature and studio walks. Now it's time for you to invent our cultural opportunities for the coming year.

Organizations, schools, and/or individuals can apply for grants. It's simple to apply. These grants can support a variety of artistic, cultural, and scientific projects and activities in Monterey — including exhibits, festivals, field trips, performances, workshops, and lectures. Specific guidelines and complete information with application forms are available online at the Massachusetts Cultural Council website: www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp.

All applications must be postmarked on or before October 15, 2011, to be considered.

The Monterey Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the commonwealth. The program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

In the 2011–2012 year, combining our local dollars and $3,870 allocated by the state to our local cultural council, the Monterey Cultural Council will distribute about 10–20 small grants for cultural activities. The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. We hope to include performance and hands-on opportunities that reflect diverse offerings in the arts and science, as well as other cultural events of interest. Although we fund regional projects, we prioritize projects that are inclusive and reflective of our town's population.

Contact us for more information: Lynne Leavitt : 413-528-2226, or lldesigns1@hotmail.com.

— Pat Salomon, MD

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Fun Day to Benefit Monterey Community Center, Oct. 8

Please come enjoy the day with your neighbors on Saturday, October 8, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the first Community Center Fun Day. There will be activities for all ages, including pony rides, pumpkin roll contests for distance and accuracy, plastic duck races in the Konkapot River at Bidwell Park, vegetable decorating, a bake sale and more. In addition there will be live music from a variety of Monterey musicians and light lunch fare and cider donated by Gould Farm.

The event will be held weather permitting at the Community Center property on the corner of Main Road (Route 23) and New Marlborough Road. Admission to the fair is free, with tickets available for purchase on site to participate in activities. Donations of all sizes will be gratefully accepted, as the Fun Day is a fundraiser for the Community Center. There is no rain date.

Read more about the Fun Day and about the Community Center at our website: www.ccmonterey.org. See you there!

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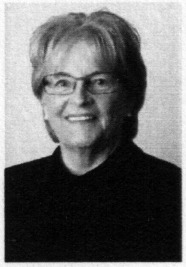

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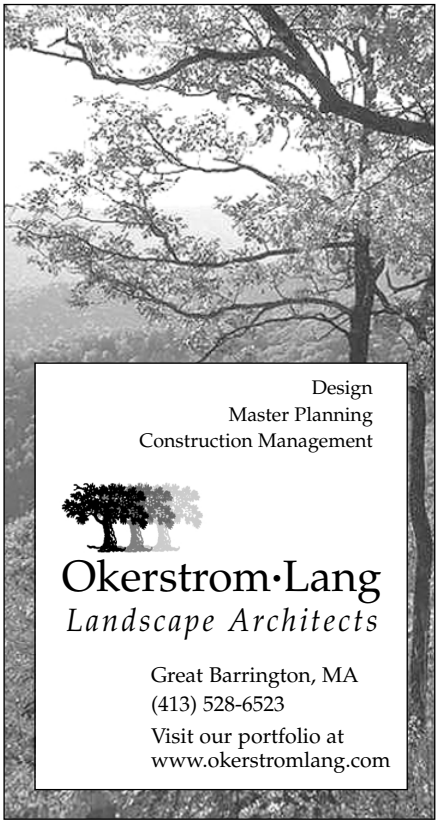


What Made This Summer So Different?

What was it about this summer just past that felt so different? Did you notice it? So many people mentioned it. And I overheard so many more discussions of it. Was it the weather? The weeds? The state of the economy or politics? Well maybe, but I'm convinced that Monterey seemed really different this summer because we have lost our General Store. We lost our central place to meet and greet each other, our spot for connecting, even superficially—especially superficially. All the informal hellos and catch-up conversations weave us together as a community. The store was the place where the visitors and all-year residents could easily interact, no invitation required. We could see each others' children getting bigger, and one another staying younger. We didn't just pass through the center of town; we stopped there. It was a destination. That's what we lost. And with the loss we suffered a loss of community.

Yes we had hopes, but as of this writing no offer is on the table. No business prospect seems imminent. I am convinced that a business-as-usual solution will not work; will not happen in this economy and time. Some of you stepped forward earlier this year with ideas and energy for new solutions, for some sort of partnership of the town, its residents, storeowners, or whatever. Please consider stepping forward once again. We need a center to our town. We need to recreate or replace our General Store. If you are interested, contact me at drpatsalomon@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

— Pat Salomon, MD

Bidwell House Pumpkin Fest, Sunday, Oct. 9

The Bidwell House Museum is celebrating the harvest at Pumpkin Fest, the museum's annual free family event on Columbus Day weekend. There will be fun and games for children of all ages, such as a scavenger hunt, pumpkin decorating, a hay mountain, pumpkin food tasting, and a fun science table. The event is hosted by the Garden Angels, volunteers who maintain the museum's flower and heirloom vegetable gardens under the direction of Ruth Green. The free event will be from 11 am–2 pm at the Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. For more information go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org or call 413-528-6888.

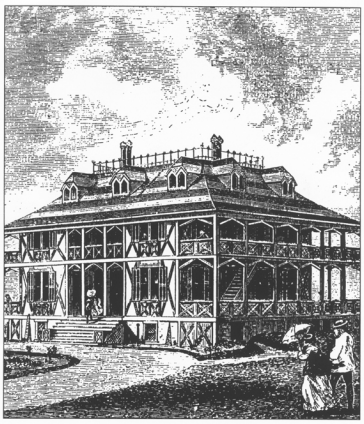
Bidwell House Museum Welcomes New Staff

The Bidwell House Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of two new part-time staff members this past summer: Robert Oakes is the new Administrative Manager, and Rosalia Padilla joined the museum as Resident Docent/Caretaker.

Rosalia is a part-time docent and is responsible for the maintenance and security of the museum. She is also part of the education program for elementary school classes. She brings experience as a gardener, a museum tour guide, and a nonprofit administrator. Rosalia is currently completing her B.A. in Nonviolent Advocacy for Animals and Nature at Goddard College. She has lived in the southern Berkshires for most of the last decade.

New Administrative Manager Robert Oakes is in charge of the museum's records, graphic design, and website. He is also a docent and part of the elementary school field-trip program. Robert brings museum and editorial experience to the Bidwell House and works part-time at the Mount, the Edith Wharton home in Lenox. He is a musician and writer and lives in Tyringham.

"I am so pleased to welcome Rosalia and Robert to the Bidwell House. They jumped right in at the beginning of the season, and both bring great talents and skills to the museum." notes Barbara Palmer, Bidwell's Executive Director.



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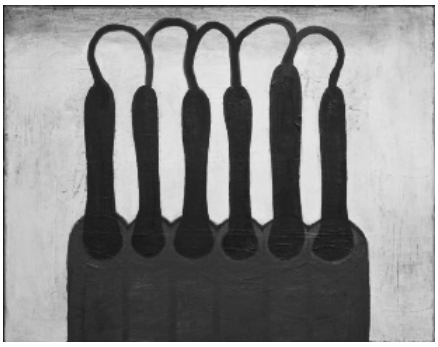
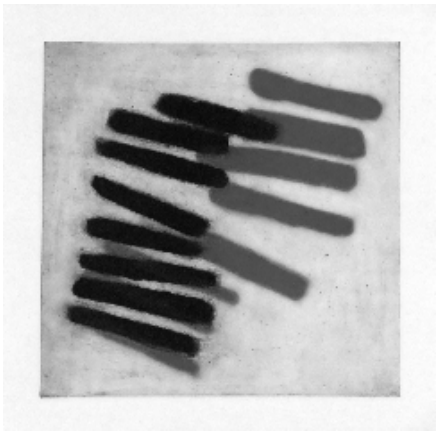
So Be Art Club Exhibition at Knox Gallery

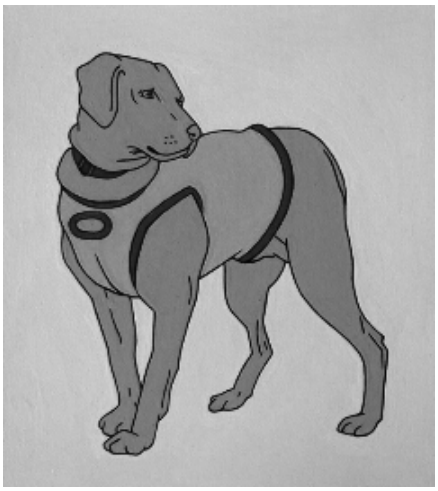
The Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library is pleased to announce So Be Art Club, an exhibition featuring the work of Philip Knoll (http://morganlehman-gallery.com/artists/philip-knoll/), Sue Knoll, Charles Thomas O'Neil (http://charlesthomasoneil.com/), and Julie Shapiro (http://julieshapiroart.com/). This exhibition, featuring paintings, drawings, and prints, will present a diverse approach to these mediums by a foursome of artists connected through enjoyment and respect of each other's work, and by geographic location. Between the four of them they have exhibited in Massachusetts, New York, Washington, Texas, North Carolina, California, Virginia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Mexico, Colorado, Louisiana and internationally in Italy and Germany. They have won numerous awards and have work in public and private collections throughout the country. The four artists all currently live and maintain studios in the southern Berkshires, the two Knolls and Shapiro in Monterey, and O'Neil in Stockbridge.

There will be an opening reception on Friday, September 30, from 5–7 pm. The exhibition will run from September 30–October 27, 2011, during library hours.

Monterey artist Joe Baker will be exhibiting in the Knox Gallery during the month of November. An opening reception for his exhibition will be held on Saturday, November 5, from 7–9 pm.







(cw from top left): "2656" by Charles Thomas O'Neil; "Blessing" by Philip Knoll; "Cowboy" by Sue Knoll; "Overrun Chartreuse" by Julie Shapiro.

The Knox Gallery now has its own Facebook page. Please "like" it to stay updated on information and for photographs of the exhibitions.

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EXHIBIT 3-5PM FREE SLIDE SHOW 7PM $10

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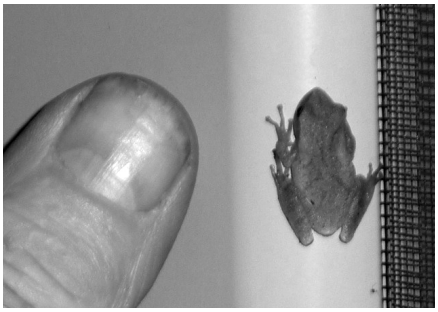
Photo Exhibit, Slide Show and Recollections Slide Show Talk: Ron Bernard & Peg Giles

OCTOBER

September Wildlife Report

Bears continue to be regular players here in Monterey. On September 21, David Feinberg was "happy to report two fat healthy playful bear cubs" seen crossing Tyringham Road. And Steve Rose sent in a report from early August of a youngster crossing Corashire Road.

Jan Emmons has seen a handsome white caterpillar with black dots on hairy spines. She has also observed amorous behavior between slugs, best described as "a kiss." Maureen Banner sent the perfect photo of slugs in love at her place. (Note: slugs are hermaphroditic, in kissing as in other things.) We also have a teeny frog photo from Maureen.



In a chance Swap Shack encounter I learned from Jim Bracken of Laurel Banks Lane, Lake Buel, that he has seen something quite rare indeed: snow geese on the water. I have only ever seen them way up high in the sky in migration, a crick-in-

the-neck experience for me, so I hopped in my car and spun down to Lake Buel for a look. Jim said he'd just seen them in flood waters near a certain house along Route 57, so that's where I went. The flooding was a sight, water up to my knees as I prowled down a driveway toward the lake. I even commandeered a canoe handily tethered to a fence on a submerged lawn, and scouted further for snow geese.

In the end I saw some excellent domestic ducks, returned the canoe, and drove home to higher ground and more conventional goose experiences for Massachusetts. If anyone sees the snow geese of Lake Buel, please call me. I can bring my own paddle.

We heard from the Coddingtons who sent two excellent photos: one of a majestic though immature bald eagle and the other of a fully mature and glorious

northern water snake, about to consume a large bullhead. The Coddingtons report that the snake did manage to turn the fish around and swallow it. As for the young eagle, it did not succeed in rousting the squawking chickens out of the bushes and so went away hungry, presumably.

Here in East Monterey we have wild turkeys every day, working on the apple drops. We also have two porcupines, one big and one huge, up in the trees dropping the apples, to the mutual benefit of themselves and the turkeys. Also us.

Send me your reports, and thank you: 528-8385, bmca@berkshire.net.

— Bonner McAllester

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Ambassador Nicholas Platt to speak about China in Tyringham Oct. 1

Ambassador Nicholas Platt, a member of President Nixon's team for the historic visit to China in 1972, will speak at Tyringham Town Hall on Saturday, October 1 at 5 p.m. Platt will talk about his new memoir, China Boys: How U.S. Relations with the PRC Began and Grew. Ambassador Platt started his career as a China analyst in Hong Kong. The Nixon trip opened relations between the two nations when Mao Tse-Tung was still China's premier. Platt describes those extraordinary times in his 2010 book.

Platt will also show personal footage of the historic visit and lead a discussion on China and Chinese-US relations today. Platt served as head of the Asia Society in New York City for twelve years and is now President Emeritus. In addition to early diplomatic service in Canada and Japan, he was ambassador to Zambia, the Philippines, and Pakistan.

Ambassador Platt has traveled and lived all over the world, but he has Berkshire roots. He is a descendant of the Choate family of Naumkeag in Stockbridge, and his sister, Penelope, now deceased, lived in Tyringham in the 1970s with her husband, Walter Littell. Platt's son, the noted television and film actor Oliver Platt, will introduce him at the Tyringham talk.

Ambassador Platt's talk is hosted by the Hop Brook Community Club of Tyringham, and the public is invited. Tyringham Town Hall is located at 116 Main Road. Refreshments will be served, and a free-will offering to benefit the Hop Brook Scholarship Fund is welcome.

Lake Garfield Drawdown Begins Oct. 15

The Lake Garfield drawdown will begin on October 15. All boats should be taken out by then.

— Dean P. Amidon
Deputy Harbor Master, Lake Garfield

Otis Cultural Grant Applications Deadline Oct. 15

The Otis Cultural Council (OCC) has received funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is now accepting applications for grants. We welcome a variety of artists and musicians from the Massachusetts area who can provide entertainment, workshops, or classes for 2012.

Applications for grants are available online at www.mass-culture.org and must be mailed to the Otis Cultural Council, Otis Town Hall, Box 237, Otis MA 01253, postmarked no later than October 15, 2011.

For further information, call Arlene Tolopko (413-269-0220), Chair, OCC. Email: Otiscc@hotmail.com.

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October 15 Deadline for Rubin Nursing Scholarship

The Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund is accepting grant applications through October 15. The Fund annually awards $1,000 to a resident of Berkshire County who is pursuing a nursing degree at Berkshire Community College. Applications are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers or by calling 413.229.0370.

Applicants for the Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship must be accepted into the nursing program at Berkshire Community College, demonstrate financial need, and have been a resident of Berkshire County for five years prior to application. In addition, preference is given to women who are single parents and to graduates of Pittsfield schools.

The Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship is an endowment of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Debbie, Ron, and Lane Rubin created the Fund in 2005 in honor of their mother, Rhoda Rubin, a nurse. Rubin worked for the Pittsfield Health Department as a school and public health nurse for more than 28 years, in addition to working evenings at the former Hillcrest Hospital for 30 years.

Pixies

There is an ancient land, where Fairies do reside
Then the modern peoples came, living side by side

With pixies, fairies, pranksters and spirits of all sort
Playing with the people's things is their favorite sport

Some may lose their power, others just a book
Wondering how and searching hard, it doesn't help to look

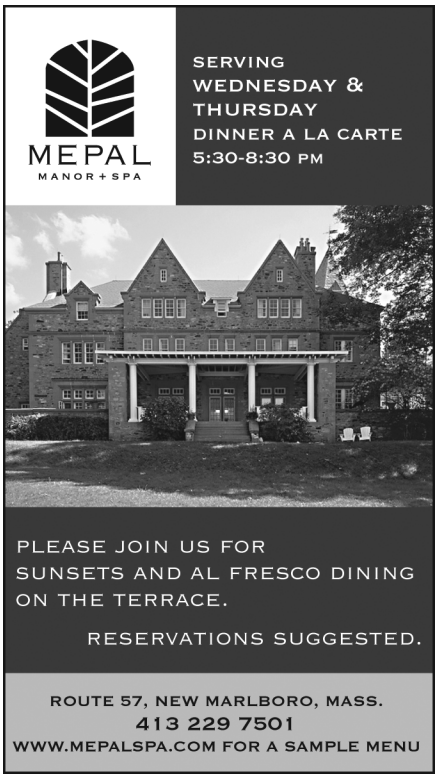
The people look everywhere, search with all their might
Till, giving up one day, they find it in plain sight.

Pixie one may say, "Let's start a flood then with glee, tip a tree"
There they go on a windless night, one, two, three.

Three are down, with boughs so low, forming tree teepee
Oh such fun for all of them, now they have a faerie aerie

We people think we have control, have it all in hand
When will we ever learn that the pixies rule the land.

— Christine Goldfinger



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Sing the Rotting Sill

If you let it
impermanence
will really bring you down
the sad raw rhythm
of the retreating clouds
of summer
playing over the pole bean picker
retrieving the best for last
house behind incredibly decaying
away
but sing if you will
blues if you must
into the cold clear starry night
and the frosted dawn
into the rotted sill
into the melting poles
into our decadent dreams
as they die

— Boney Oscar
(for G.P. & J.B.D.V.)

Canaan

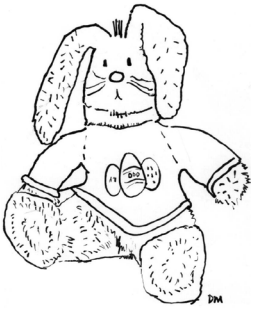
Parahades, the Promised Land,
The land of yes and ampersand —
Emparadised in one's own goal
The fragments all assembled whole!

The Lord emblazoned in His hour
Bends, plucks from time His sweetest flower
Another resurrected man —
And thrusts him far from where he once began.

He, lonely with his blissful load,
Turns back the dark and crusted road
Scattering with urgent starlit hand
His seeds of light and Promised Land.

All manifested love gives life
And earth's a lusty, fruitful wife —
There rises up another frantic, questing band
Bound for the yes and ampersand.

— Alice O. Howell



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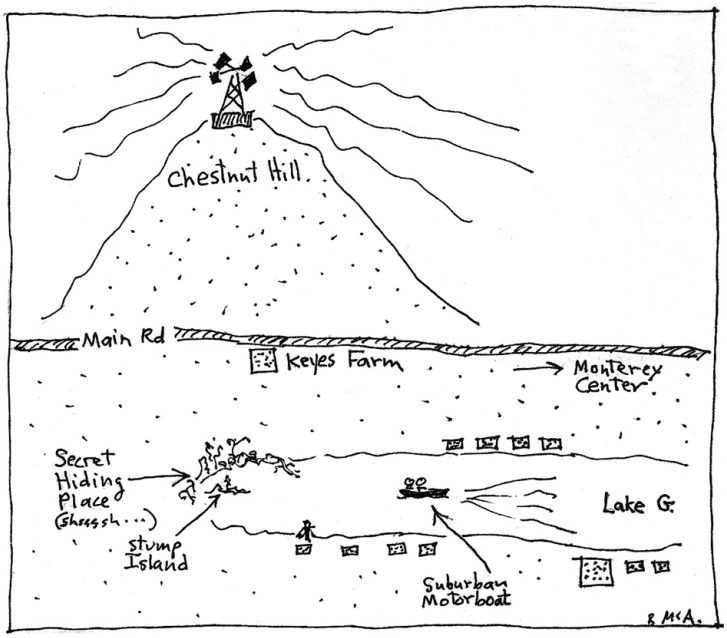
Hunkered Down behind the Island

There's a perfect yellow blossom still shining on the sturdy three-foot shrub that's grown up on the island. There are other wonders there. Several times we've seen a great dark water snake, sunning, and once an otter just splooshing away off the east shore of the island. All summer there have been dragonflies, damselflies, assorted bees, and a mysterious convocation of carpenter ants.

The island is made of three ancestral stumps from Dad Keyes' cow pasture, long underwater thanks to the Lake Garfield dam. The lake is longer now than it was in ancestral times. The dam raised the water level, created valuable real estate in the form of an expanded shoreline, and drowned big shade-giving trees where the Keyes dairy herd used to stand around near the old shoreline.

Stumps in the water last a long time, but they are also moveable, no longer rooted and living. They can be hauled around by a person in the water who wishes to create a certain type of lakeshore real estate where cows once grazed. The island we made is about the size of our kitchen table, probably not worth much in increased tax revenue. It is worth a lot to us, though, because the job we had in mind for it was to create a screen. We heaped up waterlogged timbers, and a certain amount of black lake muck, with apologies to the invertebrate residents and hopes for their healthy relocation downwards back into the wet.

Over the decades and the generations, plants grew on the island. We could sit a few feet away on the shore, slump down a little, and be spared the sight of the suburban human community cropping up around the lake. We know Dad Keyes benefited directly from the sale of some of this shorefront land. Like many a dead-tired farmer whose kids want to go live someplace else and need tuition money, he sold the only thing he had. His kid took off, and though he came home summers the rest of his life to help his folks with the big garden, he did not milk cows.



Thanks to this practical upscaling, we find ourselves in need of a few bushes on an island so we can squint and pretend. We just . . . don't want to look at all those motorboats and metal mooring places and weekend retreats, well-loved by the folks that come there. We'd rather pretend we are in the wild, in the deep woods of somewhere else, somewhere with a different history. Maybe we are pretending we ourselves are living in a different history, building a different history. What is the short version of what we are doing, hunkered down here behind a bush on an island at the end of a booming suburban lake? The short version is, "denial."

This is a lifesaver for many. How on earth could we survive if we knew it all, all the time? What if we could not run away to the movies, the happy hour (do we still have those?), the shopping mall, the peaceful walk with dog, the little island down by the swamp? What if, in the words of songwriter David Rovics, what if we knew?

His song is hard-driving and without humor or relief, without that perfect yellow blossom on the island of ancient stumps. He asks us what if we knew about this, that, and the other awful thing that's going on all over the world in faraway places in the name of big profits for companies already

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over the top with CEO salaries, bonuse,s and investment profits. He lists these things with barely any melody, driving away on his guitar, and at the end of the verse asks, "What if you knew?"

If you could kiss the child
In the sweatshop that made your shoes…
What if you knew?

If you knew that the whole planet
Depended on what you do now
Would you take command
With the speed our times allow…
What if you knew?

I close my eyes and feel sweet breezes of the lake, working to shut out the voice of another seer, a man who has been called by the *NY Times* "the Elvis of cultural theory," a Slovenian philosopher, psychoanalyst, writer. This is Slavoj Zizek and he says, "We are aware as to what extent our everyday dealing is controlled by what in psychoanalysis we call the mechanism of fetishist disavowal. *Je sais bien, mais quand meme*, or 'I know very well, but . . . '"

There's a wicked cliff up ahead, and I am skipping along through my life enjoying the blooming shrubby cinquefoil. I know about the cliff, but. Zizek is talking about the way beliefs function, and what do we mean "when we say that someone believes?"

My ancestor worked this farm here under the lee of Chestnut Hill, named for an ancient tree now nearly extinct in these parts because of human-engineered changes, the importation of a tree from China, carrying a fungus. Still, the name has always evoked an earlier time for me. For one thing, my young parents did a fair amount of courting up there — we have the little black and white snapshots of Mom posing coyly against a big boulder. Of Dad standing manly and adoringly, one arm hooked over a branch. The American chestnut was recently gone, but the hill just across from the farm was wild and inviting to these young lovers.

Now the profit motive is headed for Chestnut Hill, posing as public safety or a modern American's right to cell phone use anywhere, anytime. What if we knew? About the effects of its radiation upon the dragonflies, the shrubby cinquefoil, our own bodies? People have been telling us, and you know what we have said? From behind our sweet little island:

"I know very well, but."

— Bonner J. McAllester

"Monterey Miniatures" to Be Knox Gallery Holiday Show

The Knox Gallery committee of the Monterey Library is calling all Monterey artists and craftspeople to submit two-dimensional and three-dimensional miniatures for the holiday show, which will run from December 3 to January 31, with an opening to be announced. A "miniature" is defined as any work of art that is no more than 6 inches in any dimension, frame not included. Works can be labeled "NFS" or available for sale and, if sold, then replaced with a new piece. Artists may submit up to three pieces initially, and all wall art must be ready to hang.

To let us know that you intend to participate, you must fill out a submission form available at the Monterey Library, Town Hall, or on the Monterey Library website. www.montereyma.gov/public (go to Town Departments and then The Library) and return it by November 26. The form can be returned to the library and placed in the envelope in the Knox Gallery, or mailed to Ellen Grenadier, PO Box 551, Monterey, MA 01245.

Finally, the artwork should be delivered to the library on Monday, November 28 or Tuesday, November 29, during library hours. Please call Ellen Grenadier with any questions at 413-528-9973.

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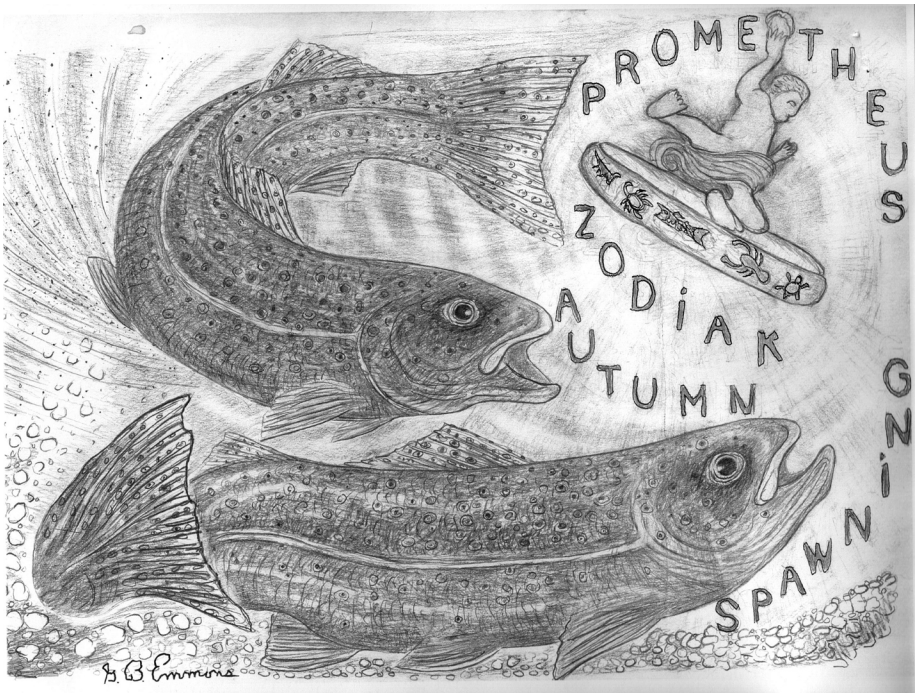
Something in the Water



Lobsterfest at the Berkshire Fish Hatchery was postponed from Sunday, August 28, until the following Saturday because Hurricane Irene would have deluged the event with six inches of rain! Later that night, along River Road, people in their homes awakened to the thunder of boulders tumbling down the Konkapot toward Hartsville, swept along downstream by the raging current. Residents there in the flood plain also soon found their houses circled by water and filling up their basements.

The aftermath of the storm, as waters finally subsided, brought news that the Governor's office had signed an emergency waiver of environmental restrictions This would allow workers to get into troubled waters for repairs, including the damage at the Hatchery driveway, and work has begun to open River Road.

Lobsterfest on Saturday of Labor Day weekend broke all records for attendance. The program included the dedication of a memorial monument to late founding board members and also the re-signing of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife agreement for the Hatchery Foundation to continue to help operate the hatchery for another five years. A great dinner of lobster was enjoyed even more for those reasons.

The hatchery routine is now back to normal, and my early arrival to feed the fish can again begin by watching a heron dive into dawn. Now the first light of each day is diminished and comes later, and the lake trout are eating less in preparation for their autumnal spawning. Feeding fish in the early morning in circular pools where three hundred gallons of water a minute course through life-giving arteries is an aquatic experience that takes me back to my career in New York City, where every morning at that hour I would walk past the five fish fountains down the sloping promenade past the skating rink in Rockefeller Center to my office.

There, the five statues of different fish spouted water out of their mouths, while across the rink a gushing wall of roaring fountains formed an aquatic backdrop for the golden torso of Prometheus, the Greek bringer of fire to humankind, as if suspended in space, over a horizontal ring of the zodiac! Perhaps like the migration of fish imprinted to return to the pools of their origin, the early morning hatchery ambiance brings me back in time.

The hatchery has been fortunate in attracting support from a remarkable number of volunteers. The miracle of this attraction might be explained by the phrase "It must be something in the water."

— George B. Emmons

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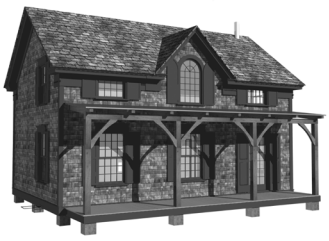
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From the Meetinghouse . . .
Thin Places

"The earth and all within it belong to the Creator of the Universe." That's the first line of the 24th Psalm, translated from King Jamesian English. Deciding for ourselves if that's true may depend on how deeply we look. If it's true, then there's always more going on than meets the eye. Important dynamics will occur beneath the surface of things, in a matrix composed of the dance between the observer and what is observed. (Ask any student of contemporary physics, or any parent looking to find out which family member drank the last of the milk and put the carton back in the fridge. Again.)

How the observer interprets experience seems to depend, in part, on what the observer expects to find. Floods. Tornados. Earthquakes. Murder, battery, and human trafficking. If I believed appearances are all there is, I'd have sunk long ago. (Been there, done that.) If I believed appearances and suffering don't matter, I'd live in blatant indifference, a cold kind of hell. (Been there, done that, too.) What do I believe instead?

In part, I believe in "thin" places. Celtic traditions define "thin" places as points on the earth, on the calendar, and especially within the psyche where the veil between the seen and unseen worlds loses its ordinary opaque quality. Places and times where the visible world becomes translucent, or even transparent. Doorways which unite the earth with the heavens: the places where the oil keeps burning; where the ship comes to rest after rain; where love bursts into bloom; where a stone is rolled away.

Some say that the veil between the world of what's seen (let's call it Ordinary Reality) and the world of what's unseen (basically Everything Else) grows rather thin at certain times of the year, too. Here in the Northern Hemisphere, ancient traditions define the eve of November 1 as one of those times. We carry a few remnants of those traditions in our culture's celebration of Hallowe'en.

Admittedly, the remnants are very few, and those few are full of holes.

They can be fun (Walk The Corn Maze!) or challenging (Betcha won't sleep all night in the graveyard!), or can span the distance from greedy to downright ghoulish (no descriptions necessary). The eve has devolved away from a time to honor all that is sacred, holy: "hallowed," in older English.

For thousands of years, All Hallow's Eve was a time to bless home, hearth, and community by remembering those whom we love who have passed out of our ordinary reality. There was a time in my childhood when I was taught that October 31 was a bridge to All Souls' Day. It was an eve for partying through while navigating oceans of sugary chocolate, yes; but its real importance lay in the eerie but precious concept that the truth of life doesn't stop with the grave. And that the creepie, crawly, skeletal, and scary don't have the last word.

I was taught that joy comes both in the chocolate and in the morning. I also learned that that greed would interfere (it was chocolate, after all, and I learned the hard way). I also learned that fear has a place: it's an early warning system, an auto-alert that can save lives, relationships, souls. But as the director of a life, it's a crippler. In that role, it cultivates a spirit of timidity that mistrusts living. If the earth and all within it belong to the Creator, then it's time to once again honor that there's a real and trustworthy bridge between earth and heaven.

At this thin time of year, and always, may The Force be with you.

— Mary Kate Jordan

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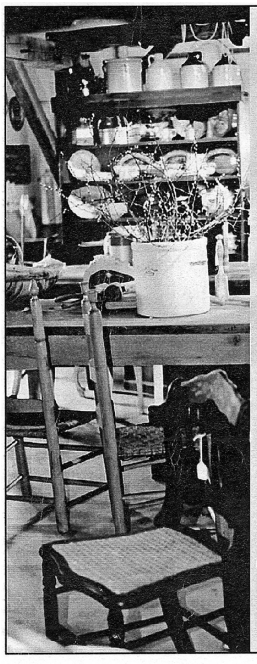

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What Are Your Fundamentals?

My life is drastically different today than it was just three months ago. It's not better or worse, there's just been a radical shift. Frankly, I've been a bit caught off guard by it all. I made an abrupt shift to a new environment, new organization, and new set of responsibilities, which continue to grow. My professional development at Roosevelt could be summarized with a swimming analogy: I was thrown in the deep end of a pool, and when I kept my head above water they threw others in who couldn't really swim and I had to keep us all afloat. At the new job, there's more of a focus on my development long-term; they want me to develop a writing voice, knowledge of the field, and an awareness of the actors to gain new tools and competencies. It's not entirely just trial and error, and I definitely appreciate that shift.

There are some dynamics you underestimate in the moment, realities you don't appreciate until they're gone. I think most people probably identify with that sentiment, to a certain extent. I knew that Roosevelt's power rested in student ownership, and that was my personal experience with the organization. What I underestimated, it seems, is how much that concept of ownership is central to my future career needs. It kept me invested on a level that was probably not always healthy, but it's also crucial with regards to my ever-expanding capacity and subsequent success. There was so much to be done, and we had so much on the line with our triumphs and failures. When I get to participate in the building or designing of anything, a ground-up investment is involved, and it makes such a difference in the entire experience. I do not yet have that investment in my current position, and it is a missing ingredient.

For years, from childhood through college and then working for Roosevelt, I've been blessed with the influence of other self-starters. Individuals who build and create their environments are the ultimate inspiration. I'm beginning to realize that I might be happiest in that habitat, and so I'm going to file that away for the future. This chapter it seems, is about crafting a foundation that will springboard me into the next stage of my life. However, unlike politicians who can see Russia from their backyard, I'm not out to build a bridge to nowhere. Therefore, I need to use this time to learn and grow, to keep my eyes wide open and work to identify ecosystems of entrepreneurial spirit where ownership is valued, encouraged, and mine for the taking. Ultimately, part of the journey is learning what works for you personally and what does not; ideally these revelations are not a reflection on anyone so much as they are the product of self-reflection on the part of an individual.

I greatly enjoy living a full life in DC, and I work fewer insane hours now. I have time in the evening when I get home and more freedom on the weekends, and that is probably a good thing. The irony is that despite all those hours, Roosevelt rarely felt like "work," as opposed to something I did because I loved it and I just happened to earn money. Granted, in the final five or six months, the going was tougher because I was burnt out. I do like having time to spend with friends or go to theater productions. I have a gym membership as a work benefit, and I just had my free personal training session the other day. That was quite the experience and I was limping around for at least two days. It did inspire me to make more time to do regular workouts and work on some core strengthening—to prevent hunching while I stare at a computer all day—and who knows, maybe I'll even end up trying a 10k run this winter.

My current mentality is about new adventures, activities, and balance, all with an eye toward potential next steps. If my life occasionally lacks the kind of meaning I'm used to feeling on a daily basis, I'm not naïve enough to expect I'll always have that feeling. Ultimately, it's good that I have this phase without it because otherwise I might never have realized its fundamental importance.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Downing's Online Town Hall Forum Oct 17

Log on at 6 pm on Monday, October 17, to chat directly with Senator Ben Downing via the website www.UStream.tv. Downing's Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin District, made up of 48 western Massachusetts communities, is the largest in the Massachusetts Senate. Downing, who meets in person with constituents across western Massachusetts and at the State House on a daily basis, is seeking innovative ways to connect with those who may not be able to physically join him. The Senator's use of social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter served as a natural precursor to launching a web forum to link up with his constituency.

Logging on to the Online Town Hall Forum is free, at www.ustream.tv/channel/senator-downing-town-hall. Viewers can submit questions and comments prior to and during the forum using the Senator's Facebook page and Twitter via #BBD-townhall; the resulting conversation will be facilitated by a guest host.

Prior to 6 pm on October 17, questions can also be emailed to the senator through the "Contact" page of his website, www.SenatorDowning.com. These suggestions should be clearly identified as questions for the Online Town Hall Forum. Due to time constraints, every submitted question may not be addressed.

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October 15 Deadline for Tupelo Award Fund

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has announced the establishment of the Tupelo Award for residents of the Berkshire Taconic region. The Tupelo Award offers individuals an opportunity to enrich an abiding passion or serious interest through study and research of a specific topic and/or development of a project. The opportunity must be one that will broaden the applicants' view of the world and expand their horizons. These grants are intended to make it possible for individuals to participate in an experience that will have significant potential to enrich their lives through travel, study, or research. The fund will award up to $1500 this year.

"The Tupelo award is an opportunity for a special person to make a step toward fulfillment of his/her aspirations and dreams. I have been blessed in the past with people who have believed in me and have supported me through many endeavors. The Tupelo award is a manifestation of my wish to share such opportunities with others," said the anonymous donor who established the fund.

The deadline for applications is October 15, 2011. Individuals between the ages of 16 and 36 who demonstrate financial need and other sources of support for their chosen project are eligible. Applications are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers. A selection committee will then review them and make its determination based on established criteria.

November 1 Deadline for Grant Applications to Foster Learning about Judaism

The Wassermann-Streit Y'DIYAH Memorial Fund is accepting grant applications through November 1. Grants are available to individuals, groups, schools, libraries, and other nonprofit organizations serving Berkshire, MA, Columbia, NY, northwest Litchfield, CT or northeast Dutchess, NY counties for quality nondoctrinaire materials and projects that educate about the heritage, history, customs, and culture of traditional Judaism. Individuals may apply provided they have a fiscal sponsor. Applications are available at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers or by calling 413-229-0370.

The Wassermann-Streit Y'DIYAH Memorial Fund was established in 1999 as an endowment at Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to foster an understanding of the diverse aspects of Judaism—its origin, history, beliefs, ethics, culture, and literature. It aims to correct bias, misunderstanding, and intolerance while encouraging the love of learning.

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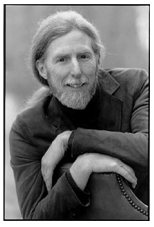

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Community Garden Notes

Ever since my parents replaced our family garden with an in-ground pool, I wanted the garden back. My first fifteen summers included the welcome activities of planting, weeding, and harvesting in the large plot behind our house. By midsummer, my mother would daily equip me with an oversized Tupperware bowl to collect the abundant lettuce, cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes, along with some string beans, broccoli, or zucchini. After harvesting, I'd help my mother wash, peel, or cut, and it seemed the happiest of times.

Besides the main plot, my parents cultivated edibles in several other patches around our house. There was the stand of corn along Mr. Fennimore's fence, the patch of rhubarb beside the garage, and a section of winter squash in the middle of the lawn. My mother tended strawberries (irresistible to the naughty neighborhood boys) alongside the driveway, and my father grew wine grapes on the latticework attached to our tiny back deck.

Although both my parents were eager and successful gardeners, I learned surprisingly little about how it all works. How to transplant a seedling, stake a tomato plant, trim a squash vine, or properly fertilize—these were skills my parents possessed, but did not explain to me. Instead, my sisters and I were trained in the art of killing. We drowned shiny Japanese beetles in soap water, severed cutworms with spades, and swatted carpenter bees with tennis rackets.

Then I learned to weed. Working my hands and feet into the soil, I uprooted intruders, feeling it my special duty to give our plants a fighting chance. I weeded slowly, carefully, and felt satisfied with this simple yet necessary work. Besides eating fried zucchini blossoms, weeding was what I loved most.

My partner, John, has different childhood associations with his parents' garden. Mostly he remembers the frustration of being pulled away from a neighborhood baseball game for the tedious, compulsory, and seemingly never-ending task of weeding. The memory still causes bitterness. So when I suggested we get a plot in the Monterey Community Garden, John was wary. "Okay," he said, "but it'll be your garden."

I was out of town the weekend of the plant sale, so John bought our starter plants—three varieties of tomato, four eggplants, and some unidentified squash. (Summer or winter squash? We didn't know.) Our plot still needed to be tilled, and John once again found himself at work. After seeing our bare patch of earth, and the zeal with which others had sowed their plots, he decided to grow carrots and watermelon. I guess the urge to cultivate is hard to resist. Between the two of us, our garden soon contained an unusual mix of plants—including onions, strawberries, lavender, and peanuts.

While at the community garden, I spent most of my time appreciating other members' plots. They seemed tremendously planned and tidy, yet their hearty and fertile plants were a celebration of wildness itself. Our plot looked haphazard and muddled in comparison, with its struggling and spindly plants.

Neither John nor I weeded much. He less so than me. Yet one mid-August afternoon the weeds were clearly in occupation. Hoping to relive some of the pleasure of my youth, I began to weed. I immediately

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Scott Jenssen

felt at home performing this uncomplicated, predictable activity with its equally predictable, yet satisfying, result. After three hours, the garden looked so much prettier and healthier with rows of bare earth between the vegetables. I felt it was the perfect way to spend an afternoon.

Since that time, our strawberries have flourished, our peanut plants have imbedded their shoots firmly into the earth, and our tomatoes have ripened. I have no doubt that each plot in the Monterey Community Garden has its own story, its own history, and its own pleasures to give. As I admire the other plots in the space we share, I am reminded that we all come to this place with our own memories, apprehensions, and aspirations. Yet we community gardeners are connected by a desire to help something grow and to savor the results.

Garden membership is open to all. You can learn more online at http://www.ccmonterey.org/comgarden.htm or email center@ccmonterey.org to request a plot for next year. Tours and information will also be available at the Monterey Community Center Fun Day on October 8. Hope to see you there!

— Alexandra Tinari

A Tasteful Summer

This has been a wonderful summer. It isn't due to any special visits or trips that I've made. It is because this year I had a share in the Gould Farm CSA, which was one of my greatest experiences ever (this is going to sound a bit like a commercial). Every Wednesday afternoon I picked up my basket of vegetables from the Harvest Barn. But first, on Wednesday mornings when I took my trash to the dump, I would see folks tending the Gould Farm garden and picking vegatables. It was great to see that my veggies were so fresh. I spent the summer reminding myself of the great things about having a garden share. First of all, it supports the great work of Gould Farm. Although not officially certified as organic, the veggies are essentially organic, very healthy, and extremely tasty. Additionally, since they are grown locally, various energy resources aren't used to ship and preserve the veggies as they travel across the country. Consequently, there is less impact on the environment.

Each week when I got home I was excited to see which goodies I had. One of the greatest things about my experience was to be exposed to veggies I had never eaten (and certainly hadn't cooked) before. So, when I got home I got on the Internet to find recipes. My three-ring binder is overflowing with recipes I've printed out this summer. The best recipe I discovered was jalapenos stuffed with cream cheese and lil smokies wrapped with bacon. I challenged myself each week to eat up all of the veggies before the next Wednesday arrived. Since this proved difficult, I reverted to preserving. I have found creative uses for my dehydrator. Now, I am learning how to can as many of the vegetables as possible. It is great all the worlds that this is opening up for me.

To learn how to can I requested a book from the library. When I picked up my book, the assistant librarian said, "I have some canning equipment you can have," and the library volunteer said, "I have some jars you can have." In a few days there were 50 mason jars waiting for me on my doorstep. I love this town! Next time I'm going to request a book about Porsches or perhaps home entertainment systems.

— Kent Godfrey

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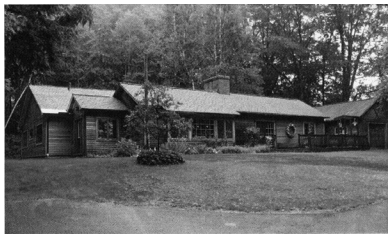

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Painters with Disabilities Exhibition

Community Access to the Arts (CATA) will exhibit a collection of paintings by people with disabilities at The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield from October 12 through October 15. An artist reception will take place Friday, October 14, from 4–6 pm.

A.R.T. (Artistic Realization Technologies) is an adaptive painting technique developed by artist Tim Lefens. This innovative process allows individuals with severe physical disabilities to precisely execute their creative vision with the help of a tracker acting as the hands of the artist. CATA faculty trained as trackers through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

CATA nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts. For more information, visit www.communityaccesstothearts.org.

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Beth King

Cute kid photo: Alexandra Rose Sturm, daughter of Jessie and Matt Sturm, granddaughter of Al and Beth King, great-grandaughter of Alice O. Howell, on her first ride.

P.O. Box 9, 01245

Thanks to Highway Crew

To the Editor:

We are grateful for the attention and prompt action in repairing Harmon Road and appreciate the planning, problem solving, and hard work involved in dealing with the water damage after Hurricane Irene. Maynard Forbes and his crew did a great job, and it appears to have made a big difference in protecting Harmon Road and the houses on it.

Many thanks to the town for responding with such professionalism, and especially our gratitude to the Highway Department.

— Erica & Don Stern, Harmon Road,

ॐ

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support encourages us and keeps us going.

Georgianna O'Connell
Bonsai Cox
Colleen Johnson
Kirk Garber
Peter & Karen Schulze
BJ & Pam Johnson

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 6 pm.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

Friday, September 30: Opening reception for *So Be Art Club* exhibition, 5–7 pm, Knox Gallery. See p. 9.

Saturday, October 1:

Archaeology on Bidwell Grounds: Native Americans, the First Meeting House, and the Knox Trail, walk led by local historians George Emmons and Lion G. Miles, 10 am, Bidwell House.

"China Boys," talk and historic film footage by Ambassador Nicholas Platt, 5 pm, Tyringham Town Hall, 116 Main Rd, Tyringham. See p. 11.

Wednesday, October 5: Presentation on green home construction by Beth Paulson of Center for EcoTechnology, 9–11 am, Lenox Town Hall, 6 Walker Street. For information, contact Peggy MacLeod, peggym@cetonline.org, 413-586-7350 x226.

Classical concert by Goldberg Trio, Music & More, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. $25/$20.

Saturday, October 8: Community Center Fun Day, fun activities for all ages 11 am–2 pm, Monterey Community Center, corner of Main & New Marlborough Roads. See p. 7.

Sunday, October 9: Pumpkin Fest, family fun activities, 11 am–2 pm, Bidwell House, 100 Art School Road. Free. Info: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org, 413-528-6888. See p. 8.

Saturday, October 15:

Deadline for Monterey and Otis Cultural Councils grants applications. See p. 7.

Lake Garfield drawdown begins. Those boats better be out of the water.

Wednesday, October 19: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse. Program: natural beauty of New England by Tammis Coffin. Free, everyone welcome. See p. 6.

Saturday, October 22:

Workshop led by Cynthia Laino of CWMARS on how to check out and download digital material (e-books, etc.) from the CWMARS digital collection, 10 am–noon, Monterey Library. Free, see p. 6.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Eric Hollman. Beginners and children are welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Information 528-9385.

Monday, October 24: Adult book group will discuss *The Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island* by Linda Greenlaw, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, October 29: Halloween-themed story and craft for children presented by Denise Andrus, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Monday, October 31: Halloween. Pre–trick-or-treat magic show by Professor Read-a-lot (Greg Mcadams), 5 pm, Monterey Library. Free, see p. 6.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer
August 26–September 25

High temp. (8/26)	78°
Low temp. (9/17, 19)	36°
Avg. high temp.	69.3°
Avg. low temp.	53.1°
Avg. temp.	61.2°
Total rainfall	**18.37 in.**

Rainfall occurred on 17 days. (Total rainfall for same period last year was 0.66 in.)

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Contributions from local and guest artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 11; Maureen Banner, p. 8, 21; George Emmons, p. 16;
Tristian Goik, p. 22; Bonner McAllester, p. 14;
Diedre McFayden, p. 13.

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